

THE CHINA MAIL.

WE are reminded that 1891 has entered its last quarter by the receipt of the handbills of the Anglo-Chinese date-block printed and published at the North China Herald office, Shanghai.

The omission of the word "only" in a sentence in the summary of the amended opium bill that appeared in yesterday's issue somewhat destroyed the intended meaning. The sentence should have read: "The amended Bill permits him (the Governor) to sell the Farm (Opium Farm), not only by sealed tender or at public auction, but by private contract if desirable in the interests of the Colony."

The stately palace situated in a wilderness to the west of the city, and called,—for no apparent reason—Kennedy Town Police Station, has become a second Victoria College in its usefulness to that class of Chinese who make it their business to remove portable and saleable portions of new and unoccupied buildings. Not long ago the hinges of the doors and windows disappeared, and a man was brought before Mr. Wise to-day charged with taking away a quantity of lead piping, for which he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment. Curiously enough, the palace is supposed to be carefully watched all the time.

A small paper is to make its appearance in Kobe, to be named the *Kobe Times*. There seems to be a large amount of literary activity in such a small place.

H.E. Liu, the Customs Tai-tai of Tientsin, has retired on account of mourning for his mother. The Viceroy has ordered Li Hing-yu to act in his place.

The military academy at Tientsin gave an exhibition of a captive balloon on the 15th, with great success. Many high civil and military officials attended.

Two prisoners were executed at Ngankin for robbery and murder. One of them was a Mahomedan. While on the way to the execution ground the prisoners did not, in the least seem to fear their coming death, but laughed and sang loudly.—*Sherpa*.

By a novel device heavy guns can now be aimed and fired with the greatest accuracy, without exposing the gunners, and without their even seeing the object to be fired at. The principle used is that of training the gun so as to cause the object to be fired at the reflected upon a screen at the rear of the gun.

An urgent telegram was received in Shanghai on the 2nd inst. for the *Cass* to be sent at once to Keelung, and that if any cargo was engaged for her it was to be shut out. The *Cass* left next morning, and it is thought that she is required to take troops across to Foochow to assist in quelling the disturbances at Ninghsia-hsien Foochow.

We (*N.C. Daily News*) learn on the best authority that there was no Chinese official stamp of any kind on the arms impressed by Mr. Mason in the *Chiyang*, nor anything to connect General E. Tong-ling of Chinkiang with them. They were packed and marked as ordinary Canton cargo, and simply marked with foreign initials in the usual way.

The *N.C. Daily News* says:—The remainder of the Peiping Squadron will come here as soon as the ships have completed their docking and repairs at Port Arthur. The two vessels now in the lower reach, the Armstrong cruiser *Shingyue*, Captain Yoh, and the Stettin cruiser *Kingming*, Captain Ling, are well worth a visit, to see their strength, the way in which they are kept, and the excellence of their crews.

The Shanghai city magistrates have received orders to capture a notorious Koloa member, Chin King-ting, who has been hiding in this port for some time. All the city executives and runners were late last night, the suspect was steadily traced to Soochow. When found and told that he was arrested, Chin drew a long knife to intimidate the officers, but was speedily overpowered. He was conveyed in a special steam launch to Shanghai and locked up in the yards.—*Sherpa*.

Much agitation is disturbing Foochow, and especially Makiang (Pagoda Anchorage). Several deputies of the Arsenal have removed to safety of vessels. It was on every one's tongue that the Koloa Hui members intended to seize the Arsenal and the two gunboats that are being built. Two of the Society members were apprehended with arms and guns in their possession, and this appears to confirm the rumours. The people were thrown into intense excitement and the Viceroy has despatched a special deputy to inquire into the cause of the trouble.—*Sherpa*.

The *N.C. Daily News* of 2nd inst. says:—The French gunboat *Aspic* returned to Shanghai on Wednesday from the river ports and H.M.S. *Swift* came in yesterday from Hankow. The English man-of-war *Viceroy* leaves here this morning for Hankow direct, and will probably stay there a month. The British squadron at Hakodate was to leave that port on the 23rd or 20th ult. The *Archon*, and *Ruler* are at Hankow, a Chinese cruiser is at Wuchow, the *Petrel* and three Chinese gunboats are at Wuhu; there are two Chinese craft at Nanking, and the *Reindeer* and two Chinese cruisers are at Chinkiang. A Russian man-of-war was at Taku on her way upriver on Tuesday night.

There is now a rumour that the Japanese Naval Authorities have in contemplation the establishment of iron works, and that some millions of yen will be raised for that view in the coming session of the Diet. The *N.C. Shimpō* does not think absolutely necessary to establish iron works at present, but if the Authorities are determined to have shipbuilding carried on in Japan, our contemporary advises them to follow the example of Italy and Spain. The two countries have entered into a compact with English shipbuilding firms to establish a branch factory, with the ironworks on condition that the national orders shall be given to the factory. It would be the best policy for Japan to invite the Armstrong Company or some other suitable firm to establish a branch in that country. After a number of years, when things are ripe for the management of the industry by Japanese, the Japanese Government should buy the factory and either work it under its own control or sell it to some private company. Should the *Archon* be successful in establishing a branch factory, with the ironworks on condition that the national orders shall be given to the factory.

I hear that you are engaged to Lord Harewood? said a belle to her wealthy friend. "Is it so?" "Oh, no," said the business-like young woman. "I shouldn't say we were engaged, but I have an option on him."—*Washington Star*.

With rail construction and com-
petitors in the steamship line, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are finding their position very strongly assailed, and enterprising management and careful catering will be much more necessary than it has been in the past. The latest we hear is that an opposition steamship line has been established on the Vladivostock, Nagasaki and Shanghai route. Some of the native papers stated the competitors to be the Russian Volunteer Fleet, but inquiries made by the Marquis show otherwise. A private merchant, Mr. T. Sato, the gentleman who started the opposition line, though only one steamer is running, has been an order from England. It is stated that the N.Y.K. have taken any active measures yet in opposition to the new line.—*Japan Gazette*.

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DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES IN FAVOUR OF JUNK TRADE.

The following letter from the Chamber of Commerce to the British Minister at Peking has been forwarded to us:—

25th September.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber beg to bring to the notice of Your Excellency that they have received complaints from the leading Chinese interests of the Colony regarding the action of the Hoppo, which was establishing a scale of duties on exports below the Treaty tariff, for produce carried by native craft which are under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Customs—and less than the rates charged on the same produce when carried by Foreign Vessels trading under the supervision of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

The effect of this has been to drive the carrying trade from Foreign Vessels to Junk, and the action of the Hoppo, the Chamber most respectfully submit, is a distinct breach of the Treaties. Desiring the case to be urgent and needing immediate address the Committee took the liberty of addressing the following telegram to Your Excellency at the 19th instant.

Canton.

Native Customs are granting special privileges exports by native junks thereby diverting trade from Foreign Vessels. Hongkong Chamber desires immediate strict compliance treaty tariff privileges uniform to all; forwarding explanatory despatch.

The Chamber believes they are correct in stating that the Hoppo is an official connected with and appointed from the Imperial Palace at Peking, and it is the special function of the Office to collect revenue for Court purposes.

The Committee submit does not clothe the Hoppo with any special privilege outside of the Treaties, and any infringement of these Treaties by granting special facilities of any kind to a section of the trade is a distinct deviation from treaty obligations.

The Committee cannot refrain from drawing attention to the fact that it is apparent to the general Imperial revenue of China by the action of the Hoppo; for every concession made by that Officer decreases the revenue that would otherwise be collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs. It is therefore plain that the Chinese Government are themselves losers.

The Committee from their investigations are satisfied with the justness of the complaints that have been made and would further intimate that though no claim has ever been made for loss of trade consequent upon the illegal acts of the Hoppo, it is evident that there would be strong grounds for such a claim.

The Committee think they cannot do better than give the following extracts which fully detail in their own words the particulars of the grievances preferred by the Shipping interests of this Colony:—

"We beg leave to call the attention of your Chamber to the present peculiar position of the carrying trade between Canton and this port, more particularly as regards the daring burglaries that are taking place. This is rather strange in a place so fully garrisoned. A watchman is told off for every four houses at night. Detectives of police are hunting after the miscreants, and every day three of them are captured and sent to the barracks. Consternation reigns in Vladivostock on account of the daring burglaries that are taking place. This is rather strange in a place so fully garrisoned. A watchman is told off for every four houses at night. Detectives of police are hunting after the miscreants, and every day three of them are captured and sent to the barracks. Consternation reigns in Vladivostock on account of the daring burglaries that are taking place. This is rather strange in a place so fully garrisoned. A watchman is told off for every four houses at night. 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Intimations.

THE CHINA REVIEW.
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

THIS Review, which was intended to meet the wants of many students of Chinese caused by the publication of "Notes and Queries on China and Japan," has reached its Eighteenth Volume. The Review discusses those topics which are important in the minds of students of the "Far East," and about which every intelligent person connected with China or Japan is desirous of acquiring trustworthy information. It includes many interesting Notes and original Papers on the Arts, Sciences, Ethnology, Folklore, Geography, History, Literature, Mythology, Natural History, Antiquities, and Social Manners and Customs, etc., etc., of China, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, and the Far East generally. Recently a new departure has been taken, and the Review now gives papers on "China," Commerce and Descriptive notes of Travel by well-known writers. It was thought that by extending the scope of the Review in this direction, the Magazine would be more generally useful.

The Review department receives special attention, and endeavours are made to present a careful and concise record of Literature on China, etc., and to give critiques embodying sketches of the most recent works on such topics. Authors and Publishers are requested to forward works to "Editor, China Review," care of China Mail Office.

The Notes and Queries are still continued and form an important means of obtaining from and diffusing among students knowledge on obscure points.

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Original contributions in Chinese, Latin, or any of the Modern Languages are received. The papers are contributed by the members of the various Consular, the Imperial Customs, and Hongkong Services, and also by the Missionary bodies amongst whom a high degree of Chinese scholarship is assiduously cultivated. Amongst the regular contributors are Drs. Chalmers, Eitel, Brethneider, and Hirth, Professor Legge, and Messrs. Balfour, Wattier, Stent, Phillips, MacIntyre, Groot, Jamieson, Faber, Kopack, Parker, Playfair, Giles, Pitton, and Taylor—all well-known names, indicative of sound scholarship and thorough mastery of their subjects.

The Subscription is fixed at \$6 per annum, postage included, payable in advance.

Orders for binding volumes will be promptly attended to; Address, "Manus, China Mail Office."

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All our learned societies should subscribe to this scholarly and enterprising Review.—Northern Christian Advocate (U.S.)

The China Review *** has an excellent table of contents.—Cecil Empire.

The Publication always contains subjects of interest to connoisseurs in the Far East and the present issue will hold favourable if not advantageous comparison, with preceding numbers.—Cecil Empire.

This number contains several articles of interest and value.—North-China Herald.

The China Review for September (October) fully maintains the high standard of excellence which characterizes that publication, and altogether forms a very interesting and readable number. Metropolitans will find an interesting and valuable contribution by Dr. Fritsch, on "the Amount of Precipitation (Rain and Snow) of Peking" showing the results of observations made at the Imperial Russian Observatory at Peking, from 1841 to 1880. "Notes on the Dutch Occupation of Formosa," by Mr. Goo Phillips, contains some interesting information, although much of it is second-hand. The Notices of New Books, Collected Bibliographies, Books Wanted, Exchanges, &c. &c. Contributors.

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